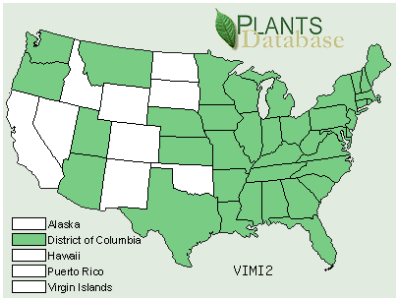
Periwinkle Vinca minor L

Common Names: periwinkle, common periwinkle, myrtle

Native Origin: Europe

Description: Periwinkle is a creeping perennial evergreen vine in the dogbane family (*Apocynaceae)* that can reach up to 6-8 inches in height. Long creeping stems commonly root at nodes and form mats. Leaves are simple, opposite, shiny, 2 inches long and taper at both ends. Blue-violet flowers are composed of five fused petals and can be found blooming in early spring and sometimes in summer and fall. Fruits are inconspicuous, brown, and beanlike. Periwinkle reproduces by root expansion and rooting where nodes touch the ground.

Habitat: It is located in forests, woodland edges, roadsides, moist rich soils and fields.



Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in CA, CT, DC, DE, GA, IA, IL, IN, KY, MD, MI, NC, NJ, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, VA, WA, WI, and WV.

Ecological Impacts: Periwinkle is often planted as an ornamental groundcover, but shallow, trailing roots allow it to invade other areas, dominating substrate and thus water and nutrients. It can aggressively out-compete native ground-layer species.

Roadside infestation

Vinca minor L

Control and Management:

- **Manual**- Pull, rake up or dig; remove roots and re-growth
- **Chemical**- It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. Follow label and state requirements.

References: www.forestimages.org, http://plants.usda.gov, www.nps.gov/plants/alien, Czarapata, Elizabeth J. Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest, An Illustrated Guide to their Identification and Control, 2005 p. 98-99, www.invasive.org, http://oncampus.richmond.edu/academic s/biology/plants/Pages/vinca_minor.htm